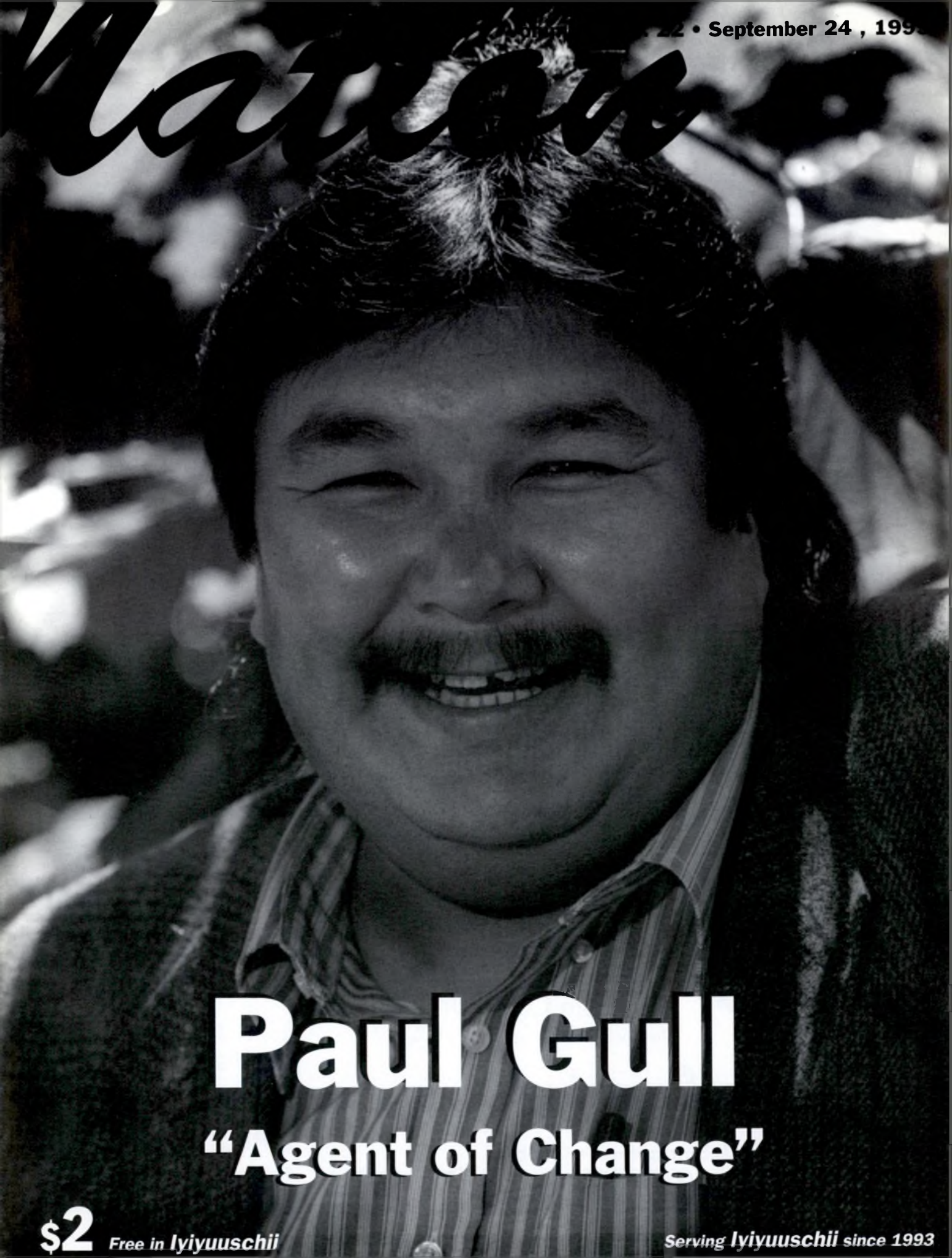
Nanoo • Vol. 22 • September 24, 199



Paul Gull

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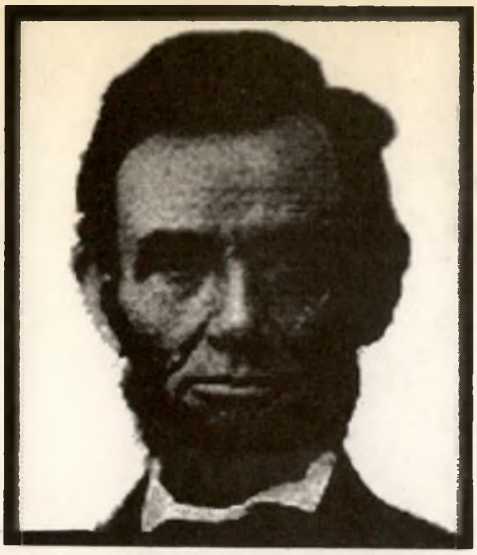

Thanks to Abe

It seems like the election hasn't ended for me just yet. I'm still getting condolences but the most interesting one came from Waskaganish via fax. I thought I would include it for everyone to see. I hope that winners and losers in the recent spate of elections read this and perhaps gain comfort or wisdom from it. I thank the person who sent this. The example of Abraham Lincoln is one that we all can learn from be it politics or just life.

Abraham Lincoln Didn't Quit

The sense of obligation to continue is present in all of us. A duty to strive is the duty of all of us. I felt a call to do that duty. -Abraham Lincoln

Probably the greatest example of persistence is Abraham Lincoln. If you want to learn about somebody who didn't quit, look no further. Born into poverty, Lincoln was faced with defeat throughout his life. He lost eight elections, twice failed in business and suffered a nervous breakdown.

He could have quit many times - but he didn't and because he didn't quit he became one of the greatest presidents in the history of our country. Lincoln was a champion and he never gave up. Here is a sketch of Lincoln's road to the White House:

1816 His family was forced out of their home. He had to work to support them.
1818 His mother died.
1831 Failed in business.
1832 Ran for state legislature - lost.
1832 Also lost his job - wanted to go to law school but couldn't get in.
1833 Borrowed some money from a friend to begin a business and by the end of the year he was bankrupt. He spent the next 17 years of his life paying off this debt.
1834 Ran again for state legislature - won.
1835 Was engaged to be married, sweetheart died and his heart was broken.
1836 Had a nervous breakdown and was in bed for six months.
1838 Sought to become speaker of the state legislature - defeated.
1840 Sought to become elector - defeated.
1843 Ran for Congress - lost.
1846 Ran for Congress again - this time he won - went to Washington and did a good job.
1848 Ran for re-election to Congress - lost.
1849 Sought job of land officer in his home state - rejected.
1854 Ran for Senate of the United States - lost.
1856 Sought the Vice-Presidential nomination at his party's national convention - got less than 100 votes.
1858 Ran for the U.S. Senate again - again he lost.
1860 Elected President of the United States.

"The path was worn and slippery. My foot slipped from under me, knocking the other out of the way, but I recovered and said to myself, 'It's a slip and not a fall.'" -Abraham Lincoln after losing a Senate race.

Source of story unknown.

by William Nicholls

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ON THE COVER

Paul Gull, new chief of Waswanipi.

Photographer: Neil Diamond
Cover Design: Sylvia Tennisco

rezNotes
by Ndiamon

In the beginning there was Chief Billy Diamond, Chief John Kitchen, Chief Walter Hughboy, Chief Kenneth Gilpin. They tumbled down like a string of dominoes.

Who's next? Chiefess Violet Pachano? Chief George Wapachee? Chief Kenny Loon?

Noted and much beloved warmonger and mass murderer Henry Kissinger came up with The Domino Theory to illustrate the potential fall of countries in Asia to Communism during the Vietnam war. What we are seeing with all these incumbents losing elections or simply stepping down could just be that, the domino effect.

Billy Diamond, after years and years of being King, decides not to run. Not surprising with a deficit of ten trillion zillion dollars. I would have left after a mere million. There was that clause that said a chief may not hold more than two consecutive terms. Some people think that's why dear Billy didn't run again but I am told this is not so. It hadn't come into effect yet. He is replaced by a youthful Robert Weistche, present Chairman of the Cree School Board.

Iron man Walter Hughboy decides it's great to be King and that the people of Wemindji still love him like they used to and throws his baseball cap into the ring and dies a miserable death at the polls, getting a measly 35 percent of the unpopular vote. After 20-some years, Wemindji residents are now going through withdrawal, cold turkey.

Kenneth Gilpin shocks everyone by not even running. Shocked because of his speech that mercilessly killed an anti-hydro resolution at the AGA in Whapmagoostui.

John Kitchen decides to go for a higher power by running for Deputy Grand Chief and, like Hughboy, dies an even more miserable death. He is still awaiting a date with a judge for allegedly drinking, driving and executing a spectacular 360 on the highway between Waswanipi and Desmaraisville.

If Kissinger's theory holds any water, Violet Pachano will be next. Violet is a card-carrying member of the Old Boys' Network even though she would never be mistaken for a boy. People are still grumbling about her having been Deputy Grand Chief and Chief of Chisasibi.

George Wapachee, another Iron Man Chief, will also have to face the inevitable election. He stands a better chance of holding on than any of the other fallen Chiefs because he didn't put his John Henry on the Dear John letter to the Grand Chief Dr. Matthew Coon Come. Sometimes it's better to stay neutral in coups and wait out the results. Smart.

Chief Kenny Loon candidate for Grand Chief has earned himself the reputation as a poor loser. After the election results were in he allegedly went on the air for his "concession" speech and proceeded to berate his public for not choosing a Grand Chief with a degree and promised to resign. And forgot to congratulate Grand Chief Ted Moses. The very next day he went back on the air and admitted that maybe his remarks were made in haste and promised to stay on as Chief. Presumably everyone listening that day kissed their radios and cheered.

That, loyal Nation readers, is the ugly continuing story of the state of Cree politics. I need a drink.

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JUDGE STRIKES DOWN MANDATORY WORKFARE

An Ontario judge has struck down a welfare program that would have forced Native people to work to get full social assistance.

First Nations were upset when the Ontario government tried to put welfare recipients in Aboriginal communities into the mandatory work-for-welfare program.

Murray Klippenstein, lawyer for the First Nations that sued Ontario, said the province was violating the inherent rights of First Nations to self-government.

The Mushkegowuk Council took its fight against the program to Ontario Superior Court and won a victory for all First Nations. "Our people were against it and it wasn't workable or feasible for us to do (the program)," said Mushkegowuk Grand Chief Lawrence Martin.

The council was upset it was never consulted on workfare. Martin also said the government is ignoring the housing crisis that every First Nation suffers from.

"Young people are living in tents because if they live at home they're not eligible for welfare. There are no homes just for single people in our communities," said Martin.

Other problems are a lack of facilities to set up programs. To get training or the jobs workfare, people would have to move out of their own communities and this is unacceptable to band members, said Martin.

The judge agreed with the First Nations, saying in his judgement that Ontario law requires "meaningful consultation and explicit concurrence of the band councils and bands prior to implementation." Without Native consent, such programs "are unenforceable."

The judge ruled that First Nations didn't agree to the workfare program. The judge pointed out that section 35 of the Constitution Act recognizes the inherent right of Aboriginal peoples to self-government on internal matters.

Forcing First Nations to do this would cause them to violate their own laws and invite "strife and administrative chaos."

The Indian Act also says a power conferred upon a band doesn't take effect until it's consented to by a majority of voters in the band or by the consent of a majority of band councilors at a meeting.

Ontario had been trying to force Native bands to administer the workfare program.

Klippenstein said the federal government supported the province and "belittled" Aboriginal self-government. "This was a betrayal of the fine words the federal government has used from time to time and a betrayal of the federal responsibilities and duties to the First Nations," he said.

Klippenstein said he couldn't predict to what extent future court decisions would be influence by this decision, "but it is a long overdue recognition of some of the principles of Euro-Canadian and First Nations responsibilities."

Though this is an important victory for First Nations, the fight is far from over. Suzanne Bezuk, media relations officer for the Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services, said the government will appeal the decision, so all welfare recipients have "the opportunity to benefit from our mandatory work-for-welfare program."

by William Nicholls

More pressure for inquiry

The cry for an inquiry into the death of Dudley George has been growing steady and strong.

The Opposition Liberals are putting forth a private member's bill in Ontario's legislature seeking an inquiry, echoing the calls of George's family and supporters.

The United Nations has issued a strongly worded message to Canada to hold an inquiry into government actions surrounding George's being shot by police.

The Ontario Ombudsman has also called for an inquiry. Both Liberal and NDP opposition parties promised one in their election platforms.

Courts have also called for an inquiry., as has The Toronto Star newspaper.

"All this shows this is a sore that must be dealt with," said Murray Klippenstein, a lawyer representing George's family.

He doesn't see the outcry going away soon. "The government is going all out to block this," he said. "If the family was going to fold, it would have done so by now."

George, an unarmed Native protester, was killed in Sept. 1995 by Ontario Provincial Police officer Kenneth Deane. The protest was over desecration of ancestral burial grounds at Ipperwash Provincial Park.

After George was shot, police failed to call for an ambulance. Pierre George had to drive his dying brother to a hospital 50 kilometres away. Also shot was a Native youth who survived.

Robert Runciman, Ontario Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations, ignored a summons to answer questions about the case on Sept. 8. Runciman was solicitor general at the time of the shooting.

Brendan Crawley, of the Ontario Attorney's Office, said, "It was never expected that Runciman would show up and it's too early for discovery to take place at this time."

Klippenstein said the government broke its own court rules by Runciman not showing up and by refusing to hand over documents required by court rules. "If the government is innocent it is sure not acting like it," said Klippenstein. **-William Nicholls**

God's son's friend

Letter to *The Nation*:

It's been a while since I read any funny stories about what our kids say. So here's one for you... About a year and a half ago, during the spring, there were a lot of mice. Most women are scared of mice and it was no exception at our camp. One afternoon, after a screaming session at the sighting of a mouse, I asked on of my nephews if he was scared of mice. He answered, "No, they are my dogs."

This summer I asked this same nephew (he's 4 years old) what he thinks of the moon and he answered, "I think the moon is a friend of Jesus." Don't you just find this answer so innocent. 'Till next time, bye.

Anonymous, Chisasibi

Belated birthday bothers

Letter to *The Nation*:

I am disappointed that you had not printed birthday wishes I had sent in July, about the middle of that month.

But I notice birthday wishes and new baby wishes for Aug. 27-28 only about a week away. Relations I presume!

Anonymous, Chisasibi

Ed. Note: Thanks for your interest. As we have been telling the many complainers through the years, we get so many submissions that we have no choice but to hold some back for the following issue. Besides, they're free. Keep in touch and don't party too much. xoxoxoxoxo.

Note to letter writers

We have received letters from Eastmain and Wemindji that we can't print. We have to know your name if you want us to print your letter anonymously. This is so we can assure the reader that all our letters are legit. We will treat all letters in strict confidence. Thank you.

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Reggie Mark won 60 percent of the vote for chief in Wemindji.

VOTERS PICK MARK OVER HUGHBOY 2-TO-1

Walter Hughboy's 21-year reign as chief of Wemindji is over.

He was in office longer than any other sitting Cree chief when he was defeated in the Sept. 12 community election by a two-to-one vote.

The Wemindji election means all four Quebec Cree communities that had elections in the past month have new chiefs.

Walter Hughboy.

Chief Walter Hughboy got only 169 votes in Wemindji - 35 percent of the total. His opponent Reggie Mark is the new chief, with 289 votes - 60 percent.

Oliver Visitor came in third with 4 percent of the total 478 ballots cast.

Hughboy was chief for 21 years, longer than any of the other Cree chiefs.

There are also new chiefs in Eastmain, Waskaganish and Waswanipi because the incumbent chiefs declined to run again. Eastmain held its elections on Sept. 16, but the results weren't ready before press time.

In the running for Eastmain chief were Rusty Cheezo, who was deputy chief before, and Edward Gilpin Jr., head of the Cree Trappers' Association.

Three of the four chiefs who are gone were quietly pushing for Crees to enter negotiations with Hydro-Quebec on a proposed $2-billion-plus partnership to dam up the Rupert and Eastmain rivers.

Watch for an interview with Chief Reggie Mark in the next issue of *The Nation*.

Whapmagoostui will also be getting a new chief to replace Matthew Mukash, who is leaving to take over as the new Cree deputy grand chief.

Mukash's resignation as Whapmagoostui chief takes effect on Oct. 29. A band official said a new election will be held in the community "most likely after Goose Break."

The elections in Wemindji also brought in a new youthful band council.d

Matthew Mukash.

Rodney Mark got the most votes for council (308), which means he will be deputy chief. The other council members are Sam Blackned, Mark Wadden, John Mark, Fred Asquabaneskum and Oliver Visitor.

In New Post elections, the community went to the polls Aug. 21. Rose Anne Archibald was elected chief with 32 votes, half the 65 total cast. It was a close election with Howard Archibald getting 30 votes. Dwight Sutherland is deputy chief, with the council made up of: Tom Kioke Sr., Francis Archibald and Paul Archibald Sr.

by Alex Roslin

Waswanipi firefighters take a bronze

Waswanipi firefighters came in third place in a province-wide Native firefighters competition held in Mani-Utenam.

It was the first time Crees went to the games. Waswanipi competed against 12 other teams.

Team Waswanipi was made up of: Bobby Blacksmith (coach), Ian Oblin (captain), Ghislain Ottereyes, Gordon Saganash, Emanuelle Belanger, Ron Simard and Jack Otter.

Mercenaries attacked mining protesters: group

A Canadian mining company is taking extreme measures to open up indigenous lands in the Philippines to development, according to a mining watchdog group.

TVI Pacific Inc. is using a 150-strong private army to harass and intimidate the indigenous Subanen people, who oppose the mining, says MiningWatch Canada.

The private army is made up of ex-military officers armed and trained by the Philippine military, but paid by TVI. They are heavily armed with machine guns and a 105 mm howitzer field gun.

The Subanen say one man has been shot by the security force, while others face violence, illegal detention and food blockades. The indigenous people formed a human barricade to stop entry of mining equipment this month. They were beaten by rattan sticks, tied up, kicked and handcuffed during three hours of violence, says the British group Sruvival for Tribal Peoples.

The Subanen filed an indigenous land claim in 1992, but now they say it has been blocked.

Essay contest alert

Students, teachers and parents, this message is for you. Our annual essay contest is coming up again. It's time to start thinking about what to enter. As always, we will print the pick of the litter in our New Year's issue. Essays are welcome in English, French... and especially Cree! Look for details in a coming issue of your beloved Cree magazine.

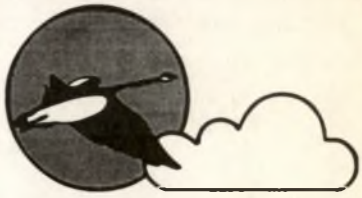
continued on page 9

On behalf of the
Whapmagoostui First Nation,
we would like to attend our heartfelt
congratulations
to the newly elected Grand Chief
Ted Moses and Deputy Grand Chief
Matthew Mukash.
We are confident that they will strive
to fufill their duties and the promises
they have made during their campaign
to lead the Cree Nation to the next
millennium become a strong and
proud independent nation.
May the Creator keep you
and guide you always.

On behalf of the members of the Nemaska First Nation, the Chief and Council wish their sincere
congratulations
to Ted Moses, Grand Chief, and Matthew Mukash, Deputy Grand Chief

Congratulations

to Grand Chief Ted Moses
and Deputy Grand Chief
Matthew Mukash on
winning the 1999 election
From the Cree First
Nation Council and
staff of Waswanipi



The Chief, Council and Community of Wemindji would like to
congratulate
Grand Chief Ted Moses and Deputy Grand Chief Matthew Mukash on their success in the 1999 election.

continued from page 7

99999999 in Chisasibi

If nines are lucky then this kid will have no problems in life. A boy was born on 9/9/1999 in Chisasibi weighing 9 pounds 9 ounces in a pregnancy that took nine months! Proud parents are Tracey Bearskin and Peter Natachequan. No computers or other equipment died or malfunctioned during this 99999999 test.

McCord display shows off Iroquois beadwork

An exhibit of 300 rarely seen examples of beadwork dating from the 19th century to the present is on display at McGill University's McCord Museum until Jan. 9, 2000.

The exhibition, titled *Across Borders: Beadwork in Iroquois Life*, includes richly beaded clothing, pincushions, picture frams, decorative boxes and wall-pockets.

Also documented is the artistic, cultural and political significance of beadwork in Iroquois societies. The museum's address is 690 Sherbrooke W. Info: (514) 398-7100.

Plaque unveiled at camp

A little-known concentration camp in Quebec's north was marked by the Ukrainian community, but the Feds didn't send a representative.

The camp at Spirit Lake, now La Ferme, housed 1,200 people for two years until 1917. Most were Ukrainian immigrants - including women and children - who the government called "enemy aliens."

Ukrainians faced widespread racism as Canada's first big wave of immigrants who weren't English or French.

Parts of today's Ukraine were under the occupation of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, then at war with Canada. Ukrainians didn't want to be occupied and felt no allegiance to Austria, but they still lost the right to vote. Many had their possessions confiscated when the war started.

Canada won't apologize or even commemorate the 24 camps where thousands of Ukrainians were sent. "They cleaned out Montreal's entire Ukrainian community for that camp in particular," said one Ukrainian community representative.

The community unveiled a plaque at the site of the camp and held a ceremony.

CREES AIR MINING CONCERNS AT CONFERENCE

Mining companies, government officials and Crees gathered in Mistissini to talk about the mining industry last month.

Chief Kenny Loon, in his welcoming speech, said mining activities and their effects on Cree lifestyles and the land had been a topic of concern for Crees for some time.

He was later echoed by former O.J. Chief Abel Bosum, who told of his band's village being forced to relocate seven times in a 60-year period. Bosum pointed out that other resource developments such as clear-cutting also had an impact.

Both men said the time for change had come. Loon said that while Crees may not always share a common perspective with the mining industry on all issues, they both have in common the desire for a more successful economy.

The Aug. 24-26 conference was the first mining conference in Cree land. Companies are currently exploring for potential mines across the Cree territory.

The Troilus Mine owned by Inmet on the Route du Nord was mentioned as a Cree-mining industry model that has worked.

Sam Etapp, a member of the committee implementing the agreement signed with Inmet, talked about the employment the mine has brought to Mistissini, as well as the agreement that respects the land and traditional way of life.

He said 76 of the 294 workers at Troilus are Crees. Last year, contracts awarded to Cree businesses totaled about $4 million. Etapp said this was the result of a desire on the part of Crees and Inmet to make things work.

by William Nicholls

Inmet Mill Superintendent Yvon Sylvestre said it is important to define a working relationship between two parties. This approach facilitates acceptance of the project and increases economic potential of developing new mines, availability of a good workforce and investment in the mining development by the Native community.

Don MacLeod, Mistissini's economic development officer, said the conference brought people together who listened to each other.

Jim MacLeod, president of Cree Gold, a Mistissini-based mining company, said the conference was a good way for Crees and the mining industry to sit down and talk in a non-confrontational way. "Companies wanted to know what the trappers wanted to see if they could afford it," he said.

MacLeod saw a few doors open for his company at the conference. "People were talking and feeling each other out. Mining companies were usually a little hesitant to do business with Natives but I had a few companies comment that I had some interesting properties."

Cree Gold is looking for joint partnerships similar to the Troilus-Mistissini Agreement, said MacLeod. He added that it's easier for the mining companies to get work done in co-ventures with Native companies.

MacLeod said one of Cree Gold's objectives is to create work for Crees.

"Why shouldn't it be the Crees? The Cree youth are going to need jobs," he said. MacLeod said there would be a lot of spin-off benefits for Cree businesses.

RIDING THE WAVE OF CHANGE

Interview with Chief Paul Gull

Paul Gull likes change. The Cree political world saw big changes in the past month, and that suits Gull fine. The newly elected chief of Waswanipi sees himself as an "agent of change." But he does not want to be alone. He asks the people of his community to ride on the wave of the changes in Cree society, and not be left behind.

Gull, former chairman of the Cree School Board, won with 181 votes in the August 30 election. Apart from the change at the top, the new council has some new youthful faces. Elected to the council were Allan Happyjack (the deputy chief), Marcel Happyjack, Irene Neeposh, Allan Saganash Jr., Sam W. Gull, Marlene I. Kitchen and Glen Cooper.

—Alex Roslin

"Being together got us this far. If we had to do it as individuals, I don't think we'd be where we are as a community."

Congratulations.

Thank you. I'd like to thank the people of Waswanipi for electing me. I want to work with them and I respect the position and want to do my best and do it right. I met a lot of people - a lot of people said congratulations. I want to thank them from the bottom of my heart. There are so many I'll probably continue running into them. I get calls, I get letters. But I hope we can work together for the common goals of our people.

So how did you feel when you heard the results?

It was very emotional because it was tiring. I had gotten up at 6 o'clock the morning before - 24 hours before the results. I had to work that day in O.J., came home that evening and voted around 8 or 8:30, and at 9 o'clock they started counting the ballots. I stayed there right until 6 in the morning.

So when the results came, I was tired. There were emotions of happiness, emotions of tears. Other people were happy I got in. When I knew I had won, I got up and shook the hand of the guy who came in second - Alfred Jolly. I was speechless at that time in the morning. It was very exciting and I took a little dance because the music came on. I spoke a little bit to the people. I said I wanted to work with the people who ran against me. I asked them to sit on an advisory committee and the majority of them agreed. We still haven't ironed out the details.

Apart from that, what are the main things you want to accomplish in the next few months?

Right now, with the new council, we're still trying to find out where we are. Generally, I have an idea where everything stands. We have to iron out where the council stands. There are issues that have to be resolved and we will be dealing with them. We tried not to make any decisions in the last two weeks because we wanted to go through the formal process of transferring power from the old council to the new council. I still don't understand where we are in financial terms. The treasurer tells me it is okay and we're not heading into a big deficit. We invited everybody to make presentations to council to tell us where they stand.

I've already met the employees of the band council and we mentioned what we're going to do in terms of working together. That was one of my high priorities - working with anybody and everybody in trying to iron out our problems.

There are lots of things I mentioned in my campaign and I did mention these are only my ideas. The other people campaigning had some ideas. And there are some things where the process is already started. It's just all mixed into the whole bag of problems the Cree Nation has - the forestry court case or the MOU (Cree-Quebec Memorandum of Understanding). So everything seems like it's interrelated and there's a lot of work ahead of us.

Are there any changes in priority or emphasis you'd like to bring in at the band?

The first priority is what we do as workers serving the people. I try to be here after-hours or even before work starts, try to show the people we have to do the work, even if we have to do it in our own time. I try to be a rolemodel. I'm here before work starts and I leave after everyone leaves.

We have to meet the goals of the people, and that is to serve the

...WAVE OF CHANGE

people. That is I could say my number-one priority. Sometimes people will look at it on an individual basis or on a community basis. I hope it's a community-based thing because it's being together that got us this far. If we had to do it as individuals, I don't think we'd be where we are as a community. That's why I want to look at it that way. The priority is we look at it as a community and we try to meet the needs of the community. I want to work at the grassroots level.

We had a question about the MOU and all this capital that's supposed to be coming in. Yes, there's a lot of capital coming in - but do we have the operations-and-maintenance (O&M) budgets to carry out these programs?

Right now, nobody can answer my question. Five years ago when I was a councilor, we only had the O&M money to run what we have. We have situations where Quebec is putting money in to build a capital project, but there's no O&M money attached to it. Can this be settled on a trilateral basis with Quebec, Canada and the Crees? We should find innovative ways to settle this O&M issue.

In general terms, we want to know where we stand. There is a lot of talk about what can we say to the forestry companies. Where are we going? How is this going to impact us? What are the negative impacts of going to court? What are the positive impacts? And are you willing to sacrifice all those negative and positive impacts for this court case? It's going to take a while to iron out and there's going to be a lot of people who will be hurt, a lot of people who'll find that in the long run it will pay off.

This should be answered by the people. My role is to see if it is possible - if it's possible to continue at the rate we're going, trying to find the balances between positive and negative. Is it going to hurt the community down the road? Probably yes, and there are going to be a lot of sacrifices we have to make as a people. But that's where we are. There were decisions that were made in the past that have implications on where we are today and in the future also.

Waswanipi's Nabakatuk sawmill project has lost a lot of money. As well, the forestry corporation Mishtuk owes the band $1 million in unpaid stumpage fees. Do you think the community has gotten enough benefits from the money that was invested in forestry projects?

It's an issue we are presently looking at and we are going to be dealing with it in the near future.

In the last few weeks there's been a lot of changes in the Cree leadership. There is a new chief in all the communities that had elections and there's a new leadership at the regional level. What do you think it means?

I can only speak with for my own community. I am willing to work with the other chiefs in defending rights and agreements we have with the governments. In terms of the community, I want to ask, where do you stand? It's up to the individuals. Everybody understands that change is happening and we can see it. I can ask a question to the people: Where do you want to be in the change? Do you want to fight it or be a part of the change? I think that's important. Because if you fight it you might be left out. If you're an agent of change, maybe it will be better for the community.

When I was in university in the past three years, this was the biggest topic in management. Change is good. And change is going to happen. It's always going to happen and it's just a matter of where does an individual stand when it happens. It all depends on what you want. If you want change, let's make it - let's make it work. If change is for the better or the worse, are we going to be part of it?

There are fears right now about Y2K. Is that a bigger change? How is it going to affect us? We all have to think about that. Right now, I feel like I'm one of the agents of change. I welcome it, I believe I can learn from it and I believe I can work with it.

> "Everybody fights and bickers about the money, and then it's not a question of unity any more - it's a question of jealousy, power, who gets more, who gets what, who wins what fight."

People have debated whether the tallymen agreements are good or not. Do you have any opinions?

I always said if you're going to have those, you do it without prejudice to any rights the Crees have as a whole. We have to find better ways to assist our tallymen for they represent our culture and traditions. Yes, the agreements can be beneficial. But we came this far in a united front because I guess we could say we had the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement, and we shared everything that was part of the agreement.

But today we have these individual requests and bickering over little things our forefathers said we will fight over - and we are. I think it's just jealousy and all the traits non-Natives gave us. We're fighting over money now. Because money begets more money which begets more money. I heard a chief say that once.

At the same time, we have to be more innovative in the way we handle our finances. We may not have the funding to count on in the future, or we won't if we continue at the rate we're going. When this happens, everybody fights and bickers about the money, and then it's not a question of unity any more - it's a question of jealousy, power, who gets more, who gets what, who wins what fight.

I don't think it's healthy to go that way. I hope it doesn't continue. I hope there is a united front to correct some of the problems in terms of where we are now. I hope we can work together. Even as a political person from this community, I've been mandated by the people of Waswanipi to be their chief. If their needs are what they want, if I can get it somewhere else, I'll try. The problem is sometimes it becomes personal, it becomes a divide-and-conquer scenario. If we don't make it personal, I don't think we'll fall into that trap in being divided.

If we try to understand where we came from, where our Elders came from, where we want to go in terms of protecting our children in the future, I think the unity can become natural. Egoodeh.

BEST OF JAMES BAY

third annual survey

ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Best Community Contribution (Man)

Best Community Contribution (Woman)

Most Outstanding Elder

Most Outstanding Youth

Most Outstanding Tallyman

Best Goose Plucker

Best Hunter

Best Fisher

Best Storyteller

Best Square Dancer

Best Looking Community

Cree Closest to Sainthood

Sexiest Cree

Best Dressed Cree

Best Cree Media (person or organization)

Best Cultural Contribution

Best Artist

Best Cree Musician

Best Coach

Best Cook

Best School

Best Teacher

Best Athlete

Best Band Council

Best Politician

Best Checkers/Chess Player

Best Pool Player

Nicest Smile

Funniest Cree

Best Nickname

Coolest Vehicle

Worst _____ (make your own category)

Best Pickup Line

Best Expression (Slang)

Amazing prizes to be announced!!!

Fill in to be eligible

Name: _____

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CONSUMER AWARDS

Best Overall Business
❒ Air Creebec ❒ Cree Co.
❒ Kepa Transport
❒ Cree Construction
Other:_____

Best Town for Shopping
❒ Chibougamau ❒ Timmins
❒ Val d'Or ❒ Montreal
❒ Rouyn-Noranda ❒ Ottawa
Other:_____

Best Music Shop
❒ HMV ❒ Musicon
❒ Polyson ❒ Mag Music
❒ Sam The Record Man
❒ Christian Book Shop
Other:_____

Coolest Clothing Store
❒ Le Chateau ❒ Bo Jeans
❒ Rio sud Val d'Or
❒ Stitches
❒ Géant des Aubaines
Other:_____

Best Hunting Supplies
❒ Sport Expert (Rouyn)
❒ Ferplus ❒ Le Baron
❒ Mario Monger
Other:_____

Best Fishing Supplies
❒ Sport Expert (Rouyn)
❒ Ferplus ❒ Western
❒ Baron ❒ Siibii Supplies
Other:_____

Best Sports Supplies
❒ Podium ❒ Sports Express
❒ Sport Expert (Rouyn)
Other:_____

Best Restaurant
❒ Del's Restaurant
❒ Brien's ❒ Jacob's
❒ Bar-B-Barn ❒ Quick Stop
❒ Kanio-Kashee Lodge
Other:_____

Best Hamburger
❒ McDonald's Big Mac
❒ Jacob's ❒ Brien's
❒ La Paryse
Other:_____

Best Pizza
❒ Mike's ❒ Pizza Hut
❒ Chisasibi Mitchuap Resto
❒ Chip Stand (Wask.)
❒ Angela's (Mtl)
Other:_____

Best Bar/Club
❒ Winny's ❒ Chateau Louis
❒ Boréal ❒ Chateau Inn
Other:_____

Rowdiest Bar
❒ Chateau Louis
❒ Christal's ❒ Bar Central
Other:_____

Best Hotel
❒ Sheraton Centre
❒ Journey's End ❒ Eskers
❒ Confortel ❒ L'Escale
❒ Kanio-Kashee Lodge
Other:_____

Best Snowmobile Dealer
❒ Mario Monger
❒ Beric Sport ❒ Indoho
❒ Ou J'ai des Sports
Other:_____

Best Auto Dealer
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❒ Veillette & Johnson
Other:_____

Best Airline
❒ Air Creebec ❒ Canadian
❒ Air Wemindji ❒ Air Taiga
Other:_____

Best Grocery Store
❒ Metro ❒ Loblaws
❒ Chisasibi Co-op
Other:_____

Best Toy Store
❒ Toys 'R' Us ❒ Dollarama
Other:_____

Best Children's Clothes
❒ Petit Luptin
❒ Géant des Aubaines
❒ The Gap for Kids
❒ Au coin des petits
Other:_____

Best Bridal Shop
❒ Jaymore's
❒ St. Hubert Street Plazza
Other:_____

Best Flower Shop
❒ Hélène Fleuriste
❒ Diane Fleuriste
❒ Mother Nature
Other:_____

Best Jewelry Store
❒ Bijouterie Riche Or
❒ Bijouterie Baribeau
❒ Bijouterie Val d'Or
Other:_____

Best Furniture
❒ Meubles Marchand
❒ Meubles Sélections
❒ Ikea
Other:_____

Best Gift Shop
❒ Wachiya
❒ Hallmark
❒ Mitchou
❒ Wal-Mart
Other:_____

Best Movie

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Best Rock Band/Musician

_____

Best Book

_____

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The Nation Reader Survey Results

Thanks to everyone who responded to our survey. It's good to know that so many of you not only read us, but are willing to fill out a two-page survey. For a great prize, of course. Keep your survey-filling pens nearby - in this issue, you'll find The Nation's Third Annual "Best of James Bay" survey.

But back to you. Who is a Nation reader? What is she/he like? What are his/her dreams, hopes and fears, and exactly how many people do they have to wrestle to get in the bathroom every morning? Read closely, maybe you'll see yourself in these figures.

Once again, the majority of our readers are women - 67 percent to be concise. That would explain all our fashion, health & beauty, home decorating, family features, arts & crafts, fitness and women's issues in The Nation. Does anyone think it's time to hire a female writer at The Nation? All potential candidates: call us. Please.

Eighty-five percent of you are 18 to 35 years of age. The future leaders of Iyiyuuschii. Keep reading The Nation.

"92 percent of you read The Nation regularly."

Other important numbers about our readers:

- An incredible 41 percent share a house with six or more people.
- Not one of you has a person over the age of 65 living with you.
- All our readers make over $250,000 (this is for our advertisers) and you spend it all in whatever town that particular advertiser is from.
- You've all gone to school - 10 percent have a university degree and one of you has a "traditional diploma."
- 22 percent of you have computers and internet access - and use it moderately. If you use it to email your classified ads, Neil thanks you with all his heart. Does anyone know that Neil has probably typed in over 15,000 classifieds in the past six years? Be afraid - he knows more about you than you do. Enough about Neil, more about you...
- Almost all of you spend a ridiculous amount of money on your phone bill (53 percent spend over $100 a month!) I bet Telebec is doing everything it can to stop the competition from entering James Bay.
- Among your worldly possessions, the most popular items owned by our readers are snowmobiles and CD players. Has anyone thought to install a CD player on a snowmobile?
- Everyone's planning to buy a lot more in the next 12 months than they've spent in the last 12 months - it's nice to dream, isn't it?
- Almost 20 percent of you spend over $5,000 a year on various gifts. I'm looking for a new, generous family. I'm toilet-trained and can do laundry - you can reach me here at The Nation, Mom.
- 40 percent of you still prefer Val d'Or for your shopping trips (51 percent go 1 to 5 times a year, 55 percent spend between $1,000 to $5,000, 63 percent spend this only in one weekend! You are my kind of women.)
- Less than 10 percent of you are planning to have a baby. I guess all the pregnancies are surprise gifts from boyfriends. (A hint to the guys - you want to get us something? How about an Expedition or Explorer?) Over half of you are planning to lose weight, change eating habits, do more exercise and go on a trip - I can understand the logic: I'll change my eating habits and do more exercise to lose weight so I can fit into a bathing suit and go on a trip to the Bahamas. I tell myself this all the time.
- 92 percent of you read The Nation regularly. Those of you who said you didn't but filled out the survey, I guess you didn't read the questions, only answered them? Honourable mentions go out to Portage, Rencontre and Windspeaker.
- As for non-Native publications - you all read one or two, but hardly any of you read the same ones! The list of over 30 publications included Crafts, the Bible, Windows magazine and Hustler. (Another good business idea - magazine shop.)
- 75 percent of you read The Nation most often - thanks.
- As for how we are doing, 61 percent think we're good or very good at providing stores that are accurate, 58 percent think we are good or very good at providing stories that are of interest, and 67 percent think we do a good or very good job at providing stories that are important.
- What do you want to see more of in The Nation? In order of most requested:
  - health
  - Cree legends / news (tie)
  - education
  - cultural features
  - family features
  - sports
  - classified ads (?!)
  - women's issues / music reviews (tie)
  - internet information
  - movie reviews / politics (tie, they're the same thing anyway)
  - fashion / product reviews (tie)
  - home decorating
  - youth / more pages - we wish! (tie)

And last but not least, our big winner! Gertie Jolly of Nemaska, come on down! You're our Grand Prize winner - free standby flights for two anywhere Air Creebec flies. Please contact The Nation.

Thanks to Air Creebec for sponsoring The Nation's Reader Survey and thanks to everyone who took the time to fill it out.

-By Rhonda Sherwood
Director of marketing, Beesum Communications

Why sovereignty is winning,

from Neah Bay to the Supreme Court

By Paul VanDevelder

This article is reprinted from The Seattle Times (May 23, 1999 edition).

The storm of public bitterness that has animated both the Makah whale hunt and a pair of recent U.S. Supreme Court decisions issued from Indian country dramatically illustrates how few facts of American life haul more deeply contentious freight than Native-American sovereignty. What is Indian sovereignty? Who dreamed it up? And why are the tribes winning all these cases?

We will do well to study these questions, these laws and legal relationships.

There is a perception afoot in the land that we are a nation defined by competing political agendas. In fact, politics is just so much weather. It comes and it goes and it comes and it goes. We are instead, and thankfully so, a nation of laws.

The courts control the helm of the ship of state. Courts steer us toward reckonings with the shoals of public opinion that few politicians have the courage or the vision to articulate; i.e., civil rights, reproductive freedom, sovereignty. They are at peace with the idea that the crossing is worth the storm.

As U.S. congressmen and congresswomen learned in a workshop on Indian law last summer, Native-American sovereignty is about to get very, very expensive.

The 550 federally recognized tribes own the last great deposits of natural resources on the North American continent.

Among the looming legal battles - as huge as they are inevitable - are resource allocation, water, timber, salmon, land, gold, copper, zinc, oil and gas, uranium, coal, and aquatic management on the Columbia, Colorado, Missouri rivers and the disposition of the Snake River dams, as well as water quality, fish harvest and heavy metal poisoning on the Great Lakes.

The nation's governors, whipped into a frenzy by Wisconsin Gov. Tommy Thompson ("These Indian environmental standards are going to sweep across the nation. They must be stopped!") recently petitioned Congress to roll back Native environmental standards and to declare state supremacy in matters concerning natural resources.

The gubernatorial petition demonstrated an appalling ignorance of both federal and Indian law on the part of governors. Congress turned its head from the foul odor put off by Thompson's petition and respectfully declined to yield its constitutional power.

An offer of sovereignty and peace

The states and the feds have been hurtling toward this national train wreck with the tribes for 200 years, and there is nothing anybody can do to stop it. There is so much at stake, so much jurisdictional overhead and racial undertow bound up in its making, that to survey the landscape from the legal high country is to feel historical ironies suck the wind right out of your lungs.

Between 1790 and 1871, the U.S. Senate ratified 380 treaties with Indian nations. Congress entered into treaties with the tribes to acquire land which it could sell to pay off its huge debts. Start-up costs for a nation, even back then, were staggering and the U.S. was too weak to take the land by force. What it had to offer the tribes, in return, were sovereignty and peace.

When the legal concept of sovereignty was first challenged in the Supreme Court by the state of Georgia in the 1820s, Chief Justice John Marshall took pains to examine this legal apparatus and to explain how it functions. He knew battles with the tribes would only escalate over time. Arguably, Marshall was writing to his wrongheaded nemesis Thomas Jefferson (they enjoyed a mutual enmity that was vitriolic, though Marshall bested him in the end).

This brace of cases, known as the Marshall Trilogy, held that every treaty ratified by the U.S. Senate under Article VI, Clause 2 of the Constitution, was now the "supreme law of the land." Sovereignty, explained Marshall, exists as a pre-condition among self-governing entities and acts as a legal shield protecting all rights and privileges reserved and implied by nationhood. In fact, treaties were a granting of rights from the tribes, to the federal government.

They acquired the legal firepower

President Andrew Jackson was so infuriated by Marshall's opinion that he declared: "Let him enforce it!" then sent thousands of Cherokee to their death on the Trail of Tears (an act which today would get President Jackson indicted by The Hague as a war criminal).

Back then, the attitude of lawmakers was "not to worry" about the consequences of conducting long-term government-to-government relationships with 380 foreign Indian nations.

After the smoke cleared at Wounded Knee, in 1890, the prevailing wisdom held that the American Indian would be a vanquished race by the turn of the century.

Cont'd on page 17

HOCKEY
BROOMBALL
TOURNAMENT

Cree Nation Inviatational Tournament (CNIT)
Fastball & Softball Edition '99
August 26-29, 1999

The Cree Nation Recreation Directors would like to thank the following sponsors of the CNIT Fastball & Softball Tournament held in Val d'Or on August 26-29, 1999.

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On behalf of the CNIT organization, we thank you for your support. Without your financial support this tournament would not have been made possible! MEEGWETCH!

CNIT - Directors & Organizing Committee

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John Henry Wapachee -	Nemaska
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Stella Bearskin -	Chisasibi
Gordon Sandy -	Whapmagoostui
Maurice Kistabish -	Washaw Sibi
Natalie Belanger -	Val d'Or

Next Tournament: CNIT - Senior Hockey & Broomball Tournament, December 15 - 18, 1999 in Val d'Or, QC.

Why sovereignty is winning

Cont'd from page 15

Wrong. Fast forward 100 years. Recent legal opinions have signaled a return to the Marshall Trilogy and to what is known in the federal judiciary as the "foundational principles of Indian law." This swing has grown out of the fact that gambling proceeds and education (there are more than 2,000 Indian lawyers in the U.S.) have empowered once-passive tribes to acquire the cash and the legal fire power to strike decisively when states trespass on their sovereignty.

For 20 years, Chief Justice William Rehnquist and his ideological cohorts have done their damnedest to dismantle Marshall. Justice Antonin Scalia recently got caught with his metaphorical pants in a pile around his ankles when he wrote that the interpretation of Indian law in the Rehnquist Court acts as a search for "what the current state of affairs ought to be."

This is a startling confession from a judge who has consistently argued that the fundamental role of the court is: ". . .not to determine what seems like good policy at the present time, but to ascertain the meaning of the text." Scalia could have added, "when your politcal agenda happens to agree with it."

In the end, we were a nation of laws that would not easily bend to the political judgments of high-court judges. The foundational law has held.

- Summer 1999: Native Americans have brought a class-action suit against the Department of Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs for tens of billions of dollars in misused Indian assets. This case is going to trial this summer, and Price-Waterhouse accountants say the particulars line up very nicely in favor of the Indians. Should get ugly.

- December 1997: The Supremes enforced Isleta Pueblo water-quality standards on the Rio Grande River on the upstream city of Albuquerque, standards that cost Albuquerque $400 million in capital improvements. The Isleta combined their 1st Amendment freedom of religion (water ceremonies) with treaty rights in an argument that had never before been heard in a court of law. City officials are still trying to gather their wits.

- October 1998: The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals did the same thing for the Salish and Kootenai tribe of Western Montana. Montana Gov. Marc Racicot promised to fight it out at the Supreme Court. He did. He lost.

Twelve more tribes have won similar approval from the federal Environmental Protection Agency under Section 519 of the federal Clean Water Act, while 20 more tribes are in line for approval, and 120, from Maine to California, have initiated the scientific and legal processes.

- September 1998: A federal court cited a treaty between the Sandia Pueblo and the King of Spain to restore to the tribe thousands of acres of land surrounding the city of Albuquerque (including the land under the governor's house.) Dozens of similar cases are currently working their way through the federal courts, both here and in Canada.

- September 1998: Federal court Judge Lawrence Piersol "dismissed with prejudice" the claims of South Dakota Gov. William Jankow and restored jurisdiction and treaty rights to the Yankton Sioux tribe (the tribe that welcomed Lewis and Clark into the Dakota territory) over 360,000 acres of South Dakota prairie, ending a century-long battle over a treaty signed in 1858.

- March 1999: Writing for the majority in a 5-4 split, upholding the fishing and hunting treaty rights of the Mille Lacs band of Chippewa against the state of Minnesota, Justice Sandra Day O'Connor reminded dissenting justices Scalia and Rehnquist that the court has a historical obligation to interpret treaties in favor of the tribes and in the spirit in which the Indians would have understood them when they were signed.

(Gov. Jesse Ventura's response: "If that's the way they want it, they can go back to birch bark canoes!")

- The din from Chippewa had scarcely subsided when the High Court shocked the state of Washington by declining to hear an appeal on shellfish harvesting by Indians.

State agencies had closed ranks with private landowners and commercial shell fishermen to bring suit against 17 tribes on Puget Sound which were asserting treaty rights of access across state and private land to their ancestral shellfish beds.

White fishermen and state lawmakers had been waiting for two decades to extact revenge for the Boldt decision, the 1974 ruling that awarded tribes half the salmon caught in western rivers. This was it. This was for all the marbles.

Who gets the last word?

The particulars in these cases are window-dressing. Unfortunately, it is the window-dressing that gets the ink in the mainstream media.

Strip away the clams, the oysters and the fishing rods and these cases are about wielding enormous power, about the subjugation of political will of one governmental body by another. What is at stake are the same bitterly contested principles that hurled the North against the South at Shilo and Gettysburg. Who controls the legal high ground? Who decides? Who gets the last word?

In 1787, James Madison and Alexander Hamilton knew this question had been finessed - for the time being. They both knew that hammering out an answer would be bloody and costly.

The 14th Amendment, which denies to states that which is denied to the federal government, was an answer that was written in the blood of a deeply wounded nation in a civil war, not to mention in the tortured lives of millions of slaves.

In Puget Sound, on the Rio Grande and on the boundary waters of Minnesota, the 14th Amendment today translates into a vigorous defense by the federal government of its dominion over national waterways, air quality, and public lands, through its "supreme law of the land" contracts with the tribes.

Government attorneys argued that the state of Washington was never party to the treaty with the tribes. Therefore, it had no standing to claim jurisdiction over federal waterways.

The Supreme Court agreed.

Cont'd on page 19

Elections '99

Congratulations to the new Cree Chiefs

Chief Robert Weistche
Waskaganish

Chief Reggie Mark
Wemindji

Chief Paul Gull
Waswanipi

We wish you and your communities the best during your terms and look forward to seeing you take your seats on the Grand Council/Cree Regional Authority Board. We wish all the new Chiefs every success!

(Note: Results from the Eastmain Election were not available at the time of printing.)

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Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Astchee)
Grand Conseil des Cris (Eeyou Astchee)

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Cree Regional Authority
Administration Régionale Crie

Why sovereignty is winning

cont'd from page 17

State officials and private landowners were thunderstruck, yet the arrogance was theirs to own, right from the start. They failed to recognize that this opinion was written and proclaimed to the world on a spring day in a farmhouse in Appomattox, Va., 134 years ago. The state of Washington championed politics and fell in a whimpering heap at the feet of the law. The feds and the tribes are partners who go way, way back. Without treaties and concessions from the tribes, states, beyond the original 13, would not exist.

Indians paid for the protection of the 14th Amendment in advance. Their names are carried on the winds of a profoundly shameful history; Crazy Horse, Red Cloud, Geronimo, Standing Bear, Black Elk, Looking Glass, Plenty-Coups, Sitting Bull, Joseph, Sealth, Black Kettle. They were vanquished by politicians hell bent on prosecuting the mythology of the Doctrine of Discovery - that great fault line on which the American house of democracy was erected, the official fiction that the continent was void of inhabitants when Europeans stepped out of their boats.

The rest, as they say, is history, but the future is in the hands of the courts. Not, thankfully, in the hands of politicians.

And if the states choose not to learn this lesson, if they choose to press on with their self-serving agendas at the expense of the tribes, hocking their consciences for political and economic gains, future relations with the tribes promise to be very bitter and very expensive, because "the supreme law of the land" will be the final word.

Paul VanDevelder is a writer and filmmaker who has reported from Indian country for numerous national periodicals and newspapers. His newest documentary, "Journey to Medicine Wheel," won best film honors at the San Francisco Film Festival in 1998. He resides in Corvallis, Ore.

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Cree Nation of Mistissini, QC

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5th Annual Mistissini Invitational Basketball Tournament

October 7, 8, 9 & 10, 1999

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Categories	# of Teams	Inscription Fee	Champions	Finalists
Men's Open	8	$600.00	$4000.00	$2000.00
Men's Recreational	8	$400.00	$2500.00	$1000.00
Women's	8	$400.00	$2500.00	$1000.00
Boys (13-17)	8	$300.00	$1500.00	$500.00
Girls (13-17)	8	$300.00	$1500.00	$500.00
Mini-Boys (12 & under)	8	$300.00	$1500.00	$500.00
Mini-Girls (12 & under)	8	$300.00	$1500.00	$500.00

**Prize money may vary depending on the number of teams that register. The first teams to register and pay the inscription fees will be accepted. *NO EXCEPTIONS.* All other teams will be placed on stand-by.

NOTE: Deadline for inscriptions is: OCTOBER 1st. 1999

For more information or if you wish to register your team, please contact the following:

Robie Petawabano
Assistant Recreation Coordinator
Tel: (418) 923-3461, ext. 246
Fax: (418) 923-3115

Andrew Coon
Minor Sports Technician
(418) 923-3461 ext. 246

SO YOU WANT TO BE A TRAPPER

By Lindsay Cote

Trapping is not a task for just anyone to take on.

For those of you who don't think trapping is a hard job, try it for a spell. The trapper who has a medium to large trapline has to endure all sorts of harsh weather and be willing to take whatever Mother Nature dishes out.

If other trappers are like yours truly, they get soaked to the bone from time to time, either from the rain or from finding some weak ice. Not to mention, the old "the dam looked a little more solid than that" excuse.

Then there's the daily bumps, bruises, wire cuts, twig scrapes, the old finger in the trap trick, and the list goes on. But if you trappers are like myself you enjoy it, and once it's in the blood it stays with you. Other hard-core trappers I've talked with all share that same sentiment. It's an on-going relationship with the bush and every fall the clock in their head tells them it's time to get out there.

There are long days in the life of the average trapper. Some trappers put in 16 or more hours a day working, sometimes for weeks at a time with no days off. Most professional trappers I know are on the trapline setting and checking traps before the sun comes up and don't return to camp until the sun goes down. They squeeze in a quick dinner and skin critters until almost midnight, have a quick wash and drop into bed. I know I've had many days like that.

My hat also goes off to the families that have to put up with us being gone and working long hours, not to mention putting up with a bit of odour. Most animals do have their own smell and some of them are not exactly spring roses, if you know what I mean.

Not all trapping experiences are in favour of the trapper either.

For starters, animals are a lot smarter than most people give them credit for, and trappers usually have first-hand experience in this area. Sometimes those animals can be downright mischievous.

Beavers can be as wise an animal as any. Some of you think these shy creatures are slow, but in reality they can move like greased lightning and can be downright mean when cornered. They also can outsmart a trapper from time to time and even get some payback of their own in the process. I know some of you trappers have run into a wise old trap-smart beaver from time to time and maybe you have a story similar to mine.

I had set up a drowning slide wire set at this one particular beaver house and was using the standard number-four leghold with a slide lock. I knew I was up against a wise old beaver when I returned to my set the next day. I found not only my trap but the wire I used to secure my weight to the bottom of the pond all piled and partially buried in a mound beside the trail.

The only thing missing was the "nice try" sign in the mud beside my trap. Needless to say, I tried a variety of different sets including Conibears, legholds and snares, but this old beaver had his act together. However, that beaver did eventually make it to my stretcher board by getting too cocky and fell victim to a blind set - using a dummy set as a decoy. But this is a good example of a cunning beaver.

Some of these critters have been known to patch the holes put in their dam, which in itself isn't all that surprising. However, some trappers I know tell tales about the smart and innovative use of materials by the beavers they've encountered. For example, not only have beavers been known to use recently sprung traps but they have used the traps that contain the carcass of a beaver - making the dead beaver a part of the patchwork of their dam. This happened to me a couple of times last season. Now is that smart or what?

Not only do they out-smart you at times but they have their own way of telling you where to go.

I knew a trapper who had problems catching a wise old cross fox and had to use an arsenal of traps to get him. The interesting fact of this particular story was that the fox deliberately traveled from fox set to fox set digging under his traps and setting them off. It took the trapper quite an investment in valuable time to get him.

There was another old trapper who had a wolverine problem to deal with. This animal was also traveling from set to set triggering traps. But this critter had a style all his own. It not only triggered the traps but demolished the trapper's sets too and then left a calling card to boot. I'll let you fill in the blanks. This trapper called a more experienced trapper to assist him in the taking of this critter. Not only did he have to recruit help but he also had to pull all his sets until mister wolverine was caught.

These are only a few examples of animal cunning, but if you can take the time talk to some of the older trappers. I imagine they can tell you a tale or two. It is a vicious cycle for animals in their environment and we should consider ourselves lucky because we are at the top of the food chain. The animal kingdom has its own cycle of life and death which goes on daily - from season to season.

Trapping assists in maintaining the healthy balance of fur-bearing animals. The wilderness is shrinking, and along with it the animals' natural habitat. If we didn't intervene, the delicate balance would be lost.

It is also in my own experience a very important part of Aboriginal life and a basis for our spirituality by keeping us connected to our traditional cultures through the old ways of survival. It was my grandfather who instilled the love of trapping in me by teaching me what he knew.

The trapper has to understand the animals he or she is trapping, including the life cycles of all the animals being targeted. Another important value to add to your trapping skills is to know when to pull your traps. Most Aboriginal trappers don't have to follow quotas, but my understanding of the basis of trapping is, save some for the next generation. In other words, don't kill off the beaver house.

Being educated about ongoing humane trapping methods should also be kept in mind. Most of all, though, trapping is a chance to gain an education from nature that not too many people in this day and age get to experience.

As our nights cool off and our days shorten and the change in the seasons can be felt on the breeze, I eagerly look forward to another hard but rewarding trapping season. However, my question still stands, "So you want to be a trapper?" If you have any trapping stories you would like to share with me, write to me at Comp. 5, Site 14, North Bay, Ontario, P1B 8G3.

Josephine

My parents called to give me the sad news that another one of our Elders in Attawapiskat had passed away. Josephine (Wesley) Wheesk was an important part of the fabric that makes up the community. She was never chief or a political leader but still managed in her way to contribute much to Attawapiskat. All of us have been touched in some way by the life of Josephine. Everyone of us as family, friend or neighbour have felt the love, the devotion and the spirituality that made Josephine a big influence in our lives and in the community of Attawapiskat.

In her 84 years Josephine always put others first and chipped in to lend a hand to family and friends when it was needed. Many of us learned much of what we know about our beliefs through the direction and teaching of Josephine. Although she never had children of her own it was her gift in life to care for other people's children when the need was there. She loved children and devoted much time to our family as well as many others in the community.

Many of our Elders remember Josephine for the times she would come to stay with the women while their husbands were out on the land hunting or trapping for long periods. She was there for many mothers and helped take care of the children and make the time easier. We all have our own warm memories of Josephine who went out of her way to attend baptisms, confirmations, weddings and many other of our important days. This strong woman was there for all of us time after time and she demonstrated a good rolemodel to everyone.

After her husband Onasim passed away in 1982 she kept up with her good work in the community and when tragedy or crisis struck, Josephine was there to comfort and even more to help out in all of our times of need. Many who knew her recall the firm but also gentle kindness Josephine gave us and of course many of us remember the treats she would pass out. Her home was always a safe and tidy place that she made open to those in need.

Josephine is a part of the history of Attawapiskat. She worked for many years in assisting the management of the Hudson Bay store and she worked long and hard. Many of us will recall Josephine as an organized person who knew how to live a good life. My mom Susan tells me that Josephine was the first one in the community to afford many of the luxuries in the early years like a cranking turntable that played music and she always seemed to be bringing new things to Attawapiskat.

Some people think it was a sad thing that Josephine had no children of her own. In First Nation communities up the coast people are seen differently if they have not produced children. I believe we are all here for a reason and that we all bring our gifts and talents to make the world a better place. Josephine by the mere fact that she had no children of her own turned her good will, love and care to children who were in need in the community. Our lives have been made a little easier with the help of Josephine and she will be missed.

By Xavier Kataquapit

CLASSIFIEDS

100 BIRTHS

A welcome message for a new addition to my family. Angel Summer was born on July 12, 1999, to Abraham Shecapio and Mina Bosum. Weighing a little over a pound, she took her first breath in Chicoutimi, Que. Little one, I thank God for keeping you healthy and strong. As you continue to grow each day, may even know that you are surrounded by much love, far and near, and that your families are anxiously awaiting your arrival home. You may be grown someday, but you will always be the little angel that God blessed us with. Hugging and kissing you with all my heart and patiently waiting to hold you. Love, your aunt, LSB. (Hang in there new parents, proud of you two)

We would like to send our warmest congratulations to Tracy Bearskin and Peter Natachequan on the birth of the baby boy (a little mother for Anna May) this morning, Sept 9, at 5:57 a.m. weighing 9 pounds, 9 ounces. All our love from the Bearskin cluster-G 2

Congratulations to my cousin Orenda and her husband Charlie Petawabano Jr. on the first baby boy, Michael Moar on July 1, 1999 by wish you love, happiness and lots of joy. God bless you and the precious baby boy. I love you. Love always, you are cousin Shania (Boodoo) Longchap. Mistissini.

I just want to congratulate my buddy Marina Longchap and Troy Coon Come on the birth of their adorable son Jerusaley Delroy Longchap. Born on the 7th of September, 1999. The Lord has blessed you with a wonderful little baby boy. Take care of him please!! From your friend Leona and my son Shadrach. P.S. Troy take care of your bundle of joy! He is my buddy!! (Shadrach)

101-BIRTHDAYS

Birthday wish is going out to my cute adorable niece, Andre-Ann Starlette Hope Etapp on July 27. Happy belated birthday girl! Now it's your birthday and you know how to walk. I guess it's time for money and daddy to have a hard time and I hope you do know how to open doors soon next time! I love you so so much! Keep on smiling Etapps! Love always, auntie Lily Belle B. (Ouje)

This special birthday message goes out to a wonderful grandmother, my gookum Jane Loon. My gookum is a special women, she is loving, caring and devoted to given the best she has to offer to her children and grandchildren. She is a woman who believes in honesty, family values and also a true believer in Christ Almighty. My Daddy and Mommy love her very much and like me, are greatful that we were blessed with having such a wonderful and beautiful person in our lives. We love you grandma and we wish you many more wonderful years. HAPPY ? BIRTHDAY!!! LOVE ISAIAH XOXO

Happy birthday going out to my brother Harry Bosum on Aug. 20. Sometimes we really don't talk to each other but we both know that there something there. All the things I've ever said to you I don't think I ever said something that I feel inside. And something I've always known was true. It is true you're a very special person to me and I love you brother! Love always your little sister Lily Belle B. (Ouje) xoxooxoxoxxoxoxoo

We would like to wish a happy first birthday to an adorable cute boy in Nemaska. His name is Alex Isaiah Joseph Wapachee on Aug. 20, 1999. From us, Raymond and Judy and your relatives and O.J.. We hope your daddy wishes you a happy birthday!

Happy birthday to Wilfred Moses on Sept. 12. From Waskaganish.

Happy belated birthday to my nieces in Moosonee, Ontario, Kayla and Krista Wesley on Aug.?, 1999 (also to Jr. on Aug. 20, 1999) love always, your auntie Judy in Oujebougoumou.

On the year of 98, Sept. 12 in Vald'Or, my cousin gave birth to a baby girl. I want to take a time to wish this little girl a happy first birthday. I wish or all the best in life in one whatever she does. I hope she enjoys her first birthday. I love this little girl very much even I don't show it. There's a very special place for her in my heart. This little girl is from Waskaganish and her name is Andria. Daughter of Elaine. With love, from cousin. Waskaganish.

Wishing a birthday wish to someone very special, my daddy Abraham S. Shecapio on July 15, 1999. Hope it was the best birthday ever. That you never thought I'd be there for your birthday, eh? Wishing you a big wonderful happy birthday with lots of hugs and kisses. Love, your little madamoiselle., Angel Emily Summer born July 12, 1999 I love you first.

Happy birthday to our dad Michael on Aug. 10. We wanted thank you for being there for us when we need you. We love you so much dad. Happy birthday and many more to come. From your daughters Cecilia, Sheila, Mary and your sons John and Thomas in Kawawa.

We want to wish our sister Veronica Longchap a happy sweet 16th birthday on Aug. 13 1999. Happy birthday. Your dreams come true as you blow your candles. We love you. From Priscilla, Tanya, Shania (Boodoo) and you are one and only brother John Ryan Longchap. Mistissini. oxoxoxoxoxo.

I want to wish my sister Veronica Longchap a happy birthday on Aug. 13. I wish you happiness, fun and enjoy your special day. I love you! From your sister Cynthia Longchap. Mistissini.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish my husband, Harry Bosum, a beautiful happy birthday on Aug. 20, 1999. Made this day bring you joy into your heart as much as you do to mine. With all my love and happiness, your wife, Emily Wesley (Bosum). xox.

Wishing a happy birthday to these there is the special people in my life, my grandpa Elijah Bobbish on June 23, my mom Doris Hester Bobbish on July 21, my sister in law Florence on July 30, my aunt Virginia Namagoose on Aug. 1st, my grandma Helen Hester on Aug. 2, my aunt Sally Herodier on Aug. 3, my friend Virginia Salt Bearskin on August 4th, my sweet little niece Selena Dawn Sunshine Blackned on Aug. 7, my sister in law Tina on Aug. 15, my aunt Bessie Napash on Aug. 17, my aunt Marjorie Bobbish on Aug. 20, my two uncles William Hester on Aug. 27 and Howard Hester on August 30th. Love always, Janet.

Happy first birthday to the adorable Johnny Neeposh, parents of Ruby and Andrew on Aug. 7. Just to that you know that you are special in our hearts and eyes. Wishing you all the happiness that life can bring and enjoy your day, as well as your birthday cake. Love always, Louise, Curtis and Zachary.

Happy 17th birthday to my good friend Mabel Jane Gunner on Aug. 16. Maybe I don't put it into words very often how much it means to me to have you as my friend. I always try to be there for one another through good times and bad

times. Happy birthday. Hope Your birthday will be a special is you are. Love in friendship, Veronica Longchap. Mistissini.

Happy first birthday to my son Desmond Clinton Pepabano. His birthday will be on Aug. 14, 1999. Since the day you were born you light up my life, you brought me so much love, joy and most of all happiness. Remember Des, I will always love you no matter what may come in our path. Love always, mom Debra.

Happy 14th belated birthday to my good friend Angelina Brien on July 3. Sorry I didn't write it so soon. Well, at least I remembered your birthday. Once again, happy birthday and many more to come. From friend always, Cynthia Longchap. Mistissini.

Happy birthday to my son-in-law Harry Bosum and congratulations in becoming a youth chief in O.J.. Keeps smiling and I love you. Love, mom in law.

A birthday wish to Jolene Georgekish on September first. Happy 17th birthday Jolene. Wish you were here. We would party all night (just kidding!). Love always, Bernie.

Happy birthday to my cousin and friend Crystal Cooncome who will be celebrating her birthday on July 31 1999. Have a wonderful day I hope your dreams and wishes come true as you celebrate your special day. Once again happy birthday. From friend cousin Veronica Longchap. P.S. don't party too much and ?? You know.

I just want to let my daughter Lucy and my grandson know I really miss them a lot. Happy belated second birthday to my grandson Jerry Darris Sealhunter who is in Chisasibi. His birthday was on Aug. 30, 1999. Lucy, take care of my little sunny boy. Jerry, have a good day! I can still remember the day you are born. The minute I saw you, I loved you so much; I had tears of joy. I am a proud grandmother! With love, Googoo Ella from Waskaganish.

To our daughter Beth June Weapenicappo. Happy fifth birthday on Sept. 15, 1999. From mom and dad, Lorraine, Sydney, Anthony, Andrew, Leonel, Grace Lynn. Eastmain.

Birthday greetings going to William Benjamin on Nov. 25 in Montreal. Hey, you're teenager now. You'll be allowed to go in the 13+ movies now. Happy 13th birthday. From mom, Eric, Cedrik and Richard. P.S. good luck on your first year of high school.

Happy birthday going out to my sister Weena Bosum on Aug. 24. My feelings for you wander back through sunny days when he used to keep the others and me when we were just little kids. At the time there was so much joy I took it for granted and so many things I didn't even stop to think. But I began to learn how important you were to my happiness. All through our years have been a source of so many smiles and so much inspiration for me. I love you sister! Love always, a your little sister Lilybelle B. (Oujeje). xoxoxoxoxoxoxoxoxoxo.

I would like I to wish my nephew Gabriel Martin (Stone Cold) a happy birthday and many more birthdays to come. Your birthday comes just once a year and this year boy, I hope you have the best birthday of this millennium. I love you and your cousin wish you a happy birthday too. Love always, Sylvia Bearskin, Robert and Andrew Martinhunter.

We would like to wish the special people belated birthday greetings. First, are aunt Jeanette our June 1, our second aunt Mary on July 13, our grandfather Roderick on July 24, our youngest uncle Matthew on Aug. 1 and to our other uncle on Aug. 4. We hope you all enjoyed your special days because days like these only come once the year. Sorry for sending these greetings late, anyway, you know what they say, better late than never!! Once again, happy birthday to you and all the best to you in whatever you do. With love, Colin and Marlana.

Happy birthday to our special aunt Georgina on Sept. 24. We are so happy you are back. Have a great year. Love, Kelly, Louise, Krystyna and Carrie.

We would like to wish a happy belated first birthday to our God daughter, Andre-Ann Starlit Hope Etapp who celebrated on July 27, 1999. We hope you enjoy your Weena the Pooh cake. With love, your God parents, Harry and Emily. Also a happy birthday to our wonderful sister in the world Weena Bosum who celebrated her birthday on Aug. 24, 1999. May all your hopes and dreams come true for you. Love, Harry and Emily

Happy birthday to or mommy, Janice Longchap and Sept. 28. We wish you the best birthday for the best mommy. We love you. Your little girl, Wabbagans and your son, Lukie-Boy.

Happy belated birthday to my cousin-sister Louisa on Aug. 15. Happy birthday dear cousin and many more to come. Love in friendship... From Margaret

Happy birthday to my brother Reuben Wapachee on Sept. 16 and to my father Peter Wapachee on Sept. 21. Wishing you both very nice day and wishing you all the best in the near future. Take care of yourselves. Love you both. Sister and daughter, a Charlotte Petawabano.

Happy birthday to Greg M. S. on Sept. 13, 1999. I hope you know how much you mean to us. Without you, nothing would have matter. Once again have a great birthday. Love always, Charlene and Dakota. You made a difference when you came into my life. You have reached a place in my heart where no one else has. A place where only you have touched. Happy birthday to you on Sept. 13, 1999. Much love to you. Charlene. xoxoxoxo

We want to wish a happy birthday to Thomas Levi Einish, Gerry Chescappio on Sept. 16. Job Willie Swappie on September 19, Ginagwan Guanish on Sept. 20. Daniel Mokoush on Sept. 24. Elijah Guanish on Sept. 25. Ann Mokoush Einish on Sept. 26 and Priscilla Coon Come on Sept. 30. We hope your day is a special one. Many you all be filled with happiness. Respecting you always. Christina Mokoush, George Guanish and the boys from Kawawachikamach, Quebec.

To my beloved daughter Priscilla Coon Come. Wishing you a happy birthday. We love you very much. From Ruby and Pierre Coon Come, and Robert, Joshua, Derek, Vernon and Jacob.

I just want to wish a happy belated birthday to my uncle on September 3rd, 1999 who cares about me. His name is Gabriel Iserhoff. He is so caring and loving for me. I love him too, very very much. I just want to sing a song for him. I love you, you love me, we're a happy family, with a great big hug and a kiss from me to you, won't you say you love me to. I love you so much with all my little heart. From your little nephew who loves to you so much, Shadrach Aaron Miiyobin Hester (Mistissini)

I would like to wish a happy birthday to my niece Yolanda Shashaweskum (Wemindji) on Aug. 29. Lolly, I miss you! And to my oldest bro Bob Diamond (Amos) on Aug. 16. Bob, call

CLASSIFIEDS

me sometime and I'll see you soon. Take care and you too don't party too much. Love always, your aunt and sis and Angie and Justin Diamond.

We would like to wish a happy birthday to our first son Arnon Jason house on Sept. 24, 1999. We love you so much. From mommy and Daddy. Whapmagoostui, Que.

Happy birthday to our daughter Sheila Quiscappio who will be celebrating her birth day on Aug. 9. Happy birthday and we love you so much. From a mom and dad and your sisters and brothers.

This goes out to my cousin and friend Crystal Coon Come. I want to wish or a happy 15th birthday on July 31. Happy birthday cuz and many more years to come and good luck! With ?? You know. Ha! Buzz! (Joke) from your cuz Cynthia Longchap. Mistissini.

Wishing a happy birthday to a brother and uncle, Jeremiah from Nemaska on Aug. 4. Just a note to remind you that we will always be here for you and we know you'll always agree to babysit. Thanking you for your time. With love, Louise, Curtis and Zachary.

Happy sweet 16th birthday to or daughter Veronica Longchap on Aug. 13, 1999. Happy birthday and many more years to come. Hope Your birthday will be special as you are. Weena view. From mom in dad (Nellie and Neil) Mistissini.

Happy birthday to my husband Michael Quiscappio on August 10. I love you with all my heart and I always will. Love always, your wife, Jeannie in Kawawa.

102- WEDDINGS

Congratulations to my brother and his wife, Joseph and Dinah. Congratulations on your wedding day on July 30, 1999. Your wedding was so beautiful. Especially you Dinah eh! You were like an Angel. Bruce and Helen are very happy to have parents that are married and made the good Lord bless you with lots and lots of babies. But you have to work on it too. But I am not available for baby-sitting. You have to come to Nemaska for that. I will always be thinking about you guys and always will send prayers. Send Bruce Wayne and Helen Margaret my love from their uncle who really cares for them. I love you very much. Love always, brother Kevin. Nemaska.

Congratulations to Howard and June Erless on their wedding day on July 30 1999. Wishing you many years of love and happiness. From Janet in Chisasibi.

Congratulations to Sherry-Ann and Reuben Wapachee who had their wedding on Aug. 20. It was a beautiful wedding and the very beautiful day to join you as man and wife. Your children were beautiful too. We wish to all the best in your new life together. With love, Charlotte, Roderick and Abel Petawabano.

I would like to congratulate Lindy Spencer and Shelley Gilpin on their wedding day on Friday July 30th in Eastmain. I hope it was a beautiful wedding. I wish I was there with you guys. Wishing you all the best that life has to offer! From and friends in Waskaganish. P.S. may you have a wonderful life together. Good luck guys and we hope you'll visit us again down here.

To our Uncle George Guanish, finally, he will take her hand. To the woman whom he loves with all his heart and soul, Christina Mokoush on Sept. 25, 1999. We congratulate you both with lots of happiness, joy and love through the years. With our prayers and love from Marianne and Cheyenne from Kawawachikamach

103-ANNIVERSARIES

On Aug. 14, 1999, Delanna and Ronald celebrated their first wedding anniversary. I wish them all the best. I offer my blessings, love and support and many wishes for happiness and your dreams to come true. God bless you both and Ethan. (And happy belated birthday to Wayne Gilpin on April 28, 1999) I love you all. Love, mom, Charlotte.

Congratulations to my daughter and son-in-law on their first anniversary on Aug. 29, 1999. Keep your love strong for each other. Emily Wesley (Bosum) and Harry Bosum of O.J.. I love you so much. Love always, mom (Moosonee)

I want to wish my husband Roderick Petawabano a happy 8th anniversary on Sept. 20. Our love together has not always bloomed a with sunshine but we always managed to keep our love for each other stronger. I love you. Your wife, Charlotte Petawabano.

I would like to wish a happy 32nd anniversary to my parents Eva and Basil Diamond on Aug. 26. I want thank you for supporting me all these years and happy 12th anniversary to my sister Annette and Angus Shashaweskum on Sept. 11. I love you all other really miss you guys so much. Take care yourselves. P.S. sis don't party too much. Take it easy. Love always, Angie and baby Justin Diamond Jr. xoxox1/2

On Sept. 28, 1999, a very special couple will be celebrating their 15th wedding anniversary. Through our parents Jimmy and Emma Jacob. We would like to say thank you for everything you have done for us and continue doing. Wishing you all the best and God bless. With love, Jamie, Vanessa, Becky, Marina and Annalisa.

300-PERSONALS

Are alcohol and drugs destroying your life? Do you want to help yourself? Maybe we can help. We are Alcoholics Anonymous. We meet in Mistissini on Saturday evenings, 8 p.m., in the basement of St. John's Anglican church.

Seeking email pen pals. Males or females, doesn't matter. I am a female. Just write to me at my email address, Guess_me55@hotmail.com. Just tell me about yourself and I'll tell you about myself when I write back. I promised to respond soon! Hope you write to me!

Looking for a long lost friend "Rolland Laroche". Si tu me reconnais appelle moi. Indice: Tu as appeller ta fille apres moi.

This goes out to a buddy of mine, Jennifer Jackson. Where in the hell are you girl!! Last I heard from you was last year on the phone. I tried calling at your mom's place. You're not there when I call. Write to me okay. Grace Blacksmith P.O. Box 312, Senneterre Que. J0Y 2M0

This goes out to my best friend Shannon Bernard. I just wanted to let you know that your friendship means a lot to me. I tell you everything about me. My hopes, dreams, secrets and my feelings. I also wanted to thank you for being understanding, trustworthy, caring and thanks for being there for me to the good times

CLASSIFIEDS

and the bad times. Always remember that no matter how far apart we are, you'll always be my best friend. Well, I'd better stop writing before I get emotional (joke). P.S. take care of yourself! From your best friend, Tanya Blacksmith

To Cecile W. Sutherland in Moosonee, Ontario. How are you dear friend? It's been a while since I heard from you. Call me, I think you have my number. From friend... Margaret (Chisasibi).

In the Montreal area there is interest to learn Cree. For teachers of Cree please e-mail Aboriginal Women of Montreal at famawm@cam.org This is a non-profit organisation, and AWM greatly appreciates any help in funding or otherwise that is offered. Meegwetch.

Hello. :) I am a Cree individual with a cat and a room for rent in a large 5&1/2 for 250.00 /mo. negotiable, location Montreal. Non-smoking student or professional preferred. Please reply at 514.284.3097

Congratulations to the new youth chief of O.J., Harry Bosum. May all your hopes and dreams for the young people become gold, treasure in your heart. I am happy for you in succeeding in something you believe in. Love, your wife, Emily. P.S. congrats to the new council also.

500-MISCELLANEOUS

There are people today that take the time to do things for others. These people may be young or old, married or single, everyday people who take time even when time for them seems to be running short. We would like to say a great big thank you to the special people for shelling our little baby girl Marlana Elsa Robyn Trapper with gifts and most importantly with love. To Betty, Anne and Frances Trapper, Hazel, Priscilla, Jeanette, Mary, Beulah and Elsie Blueboy, Cheryl Moar, Mary Shashaweskum, Brenda Weistche, Yvette Small, Laura Jonah, Shirley and Michelle Hester, Lillian Blackned, Clara, Florrie, Valerie and Alice Shecapio, Winnifred Katapatuk, Leeanne Ignace and to those we might have forgotten. Marlana herself would like to personally thank her grandmother for giving her the joy of her swinging days. Again, thank you for all you have done for us. From Marlana, Diane, Collin and John.

I would like to send best wishes to my friend, Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come,. Have a good rest with your family. Thank you for everything. God bless you and your family. From your small friend and O.J. Nicole Cooper

Wishing Lori Morrison and Samson Wischee a three-month dating anniversary! We hope that you will be together always. Maybe someday we will see you walking down the aisle. If the Lord wills but remember all things are possible for them who believe. From Jamie and Mary. Waskaganish.

Congratulations to my husband Raymond Capissisit on his fifth year of sobriety on Aug. 14, 1999. With all my love, Judy. xoxoxoxo.

Hi to my friends in Chisasibi, Wemindji, Waswanipi: Marjoline Bellefleur, Cindy Cookish, Lori Chakapash, Julianna Louttit, Lana Herodier, Paula Atsynia, Chantal Stephen, Diana Shashaweskum, Bridget Asquabaneskum, Alexandra Visitor, Joni Saganash, Irene Blacksmith, Heather kitchen, and others that I forgot to mention. How are you girls doing? I hope for friendship will never and even though we're miles away from each other. Hope to see you girls soon. Friend always, Nina in Mistissini. P.S. take -care yourselves and don't party too much.

600-LOVERS AND SECRET ADMIRERS

To Lina with love. It has been a long time since you left Waswanipi. When will you return? Or will you not return ever? I could still smell your perfume. I miss your smile, seeing you walk down the street. Please come back. From a secret admirer.

To Boodoo (Matthew), I will never forget all the days we spent together, I was happy with you and you light up my life. I never fell like this before, the way you may so excited everyday and on every moment I think about you, every step I take a feeling him going to find something very special from you. I want to make you happy and to make you love me. Me I always did love you very much. It feels like someone just hit my heart with a bat. I've loved other guys but not as much as you. I finally found a special one cause I love you with every beat of my heart. You make my heart go on every beat of it. There are millions of hearts surrounding you. You will always be the only one of my life. I want to be with you forever. I want to be in your life and be with you. I will always love you. My love for you will never end. It feels like we went up the stairs of gold with millions of hearts around us. I have thousands of words to say I love you very much. Forever I will not stop loving you. Love, your secret admirer (guess who!!)

Hey R_____. Yeah you. You know I'm talking to you. I see you, you see me. Wouldn't you like to try something else besides just staring and wishing? Call me, don't be scared. I won't tell if you don't. You know who I am...

I'm gonna be a Fireman someday.
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